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## SPEAKER



### Ambassador Kurt Tong

Managing Partner, The Asia Group, USA

Ambassador Kurt Tong is Managing Partner at The Asia Group, where he leads consulting teams focused on Japan, China, and Hong Kong, and on East Asia regional policy matters. A leading expert in diplomacy and economic affairs in East Asia, Ambassador Tong served for thirty years in the Department of State as a career diplomat.

Just prior to joining The Asia Group, Ambassador Tong served as Consul General and Chief of Mission in Hong Kong and Macau from 2016 to 2019. Prior to that role, he was the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs at the State Department from 2014 to 2016, the Department's most senior career official handling economic affairs. He also served as the Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo from 2011 to 2014.

Previously, Ambassador Tong was Ambassador for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in 2011, leading the U.S. chairmanship of the organization during a productive period for APEC. As Director of Korean Affairs in the State Department, he negotiated with North Korea as part of the Six-Party Talks. He was one of the original architects of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement during the Bush and Obama administrations, including while serving as Director for Asian Economic Affairs at the White House National Security Council. Earlier in his career, Ambassador Tong served in Beijing, Seoul, Manila, and Tokyo. He published research on Japanese macroeconomic trends and U.S.-Japan economic diplomacy as a Visiting Scholar with Tokyo University's Faculty of Economics, and before joining the Foreign Service, was an Associate with the Boston Consulting Group in Tokyo.

Ambassador Tong is an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, and a Senior Adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, at the Hinrich Foundation, and at Geodesic Capital. He is Chair of the National Association of Japan-America Societies, and Chair of the non-profit International Student Conferences Inc. . Ambassador Tong is a member of the U.S. Committee for the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and a member of the American Academy of Diplomacy. Ambassador Tong holds a B.A. from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and studied Economics at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute. He has also studied at the Beijing Institute of Education, Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies in Taipei, Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Tokyo, and the International Christian University in Tokyo.